

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Jan LISKA et al.

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

MITRAL AND TRICUSPID VALVE REPAIR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

5. (amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising the step of: adjusting the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases by varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

6. (amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising the step of: attaching the stabilizing element (14) to the atrial side of each leaflet base (8; 10), said stabilizing element (14) serving as a support for said leaflets (4, 6).

8. (amended) A method according to claim 2, comprising the steps of: encasing said steerable applicator (32) (catheter) in an inserting device (guidance sheath) for

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penetrating the human skin and achieving a venous access port; extending the steerable applicator (32) from a maneuvering device at a proximal end outside said access port, through the femoral vein, the inferior vena cava and the right atrium to penetrate the intra-atrial septum to the left atrium and; arranging the steerable applicator (32) (catheter) with a manipulative distal end (31) in one of said selected positions (26; 28).

15. (amended) A means according to claim 11, wherein the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases is adjustable by means of varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

18. (amended) A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a rod or wire.

19. (amended) A means according to claim 12, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a number of rods or wires.

20. (amended) A means according to claim 13, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is a structure comprising a number of rods or wires.

21. (amended) A means according to claim 14, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a strip or band.

22. (amended) A means according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is comprised of a number of strips or bands.

23. (amended) A means according to claim 21, wherein each strip or band is net-formed.

24. (amended) A means according to claim 20, wherein an intermediate section of each structure, strip or band is shaped in the form of a ring.

25. (amended) A means according to claim 20, wherein an intermediate section of each structure, strip or band is shaped in the form of a circular disc.

26. (amended) A means according to claim 11, wherein said steerable applicator (32) (catheter) is encased in an inserting device (guidance sheath) for penetrating the human skin to achieve a venous access port and extended, from a maneuvering device at a proximal end outside said access port, through the femoral vein, the inferior vena cava and the right atrium to penetrate the intra-atrial septum to the left atrium, the steerable applicator (32) (catheter) being arrangable with a manipulative distal end (31) in one of said selected positions (26; 28).

Add the following new claims:

--29. (new) A method according to claim 2, comprising the step of: adjusting the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases by varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

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--30. (new) A method according to claim 3, comprising the step of: adjusting the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases by varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

--31. (new) A method according to claim 4, comprising the step of: adjusting the distance (D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases by varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

--32. (new) A method according to claim 2, comprising the step of: attaching the stabilizing element (14) to the atrial side of each leaflet base (8; 10), said stabilizing element (14) serving as a support for said leaflets (4, 6).

--33. (new) A method according to claim 3, comprising the step of: attaching the stabilizing element (14) to the atrial side of each leaflet base (8; 10), said stabilizing element (14) serving as a support for said leaflets (4, 6).

--34. (new) A method according to claim 4, comprising the step of: attaching the stabilizing element (14) to the atrial side of each leaflet base (8; 10), said stabilizing element (14) serving as a support for said leaflets (4, 6).

R E M A R K S

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. (amended) A method according to ~~one of claims~~
~~1-4~~claim 1, comprising the step of: adjusting the distance
(D1, D2) between the anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet
bases by varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

6. (amended) A method according to ~~one of claims~~
~~1-5~~claim 1, comprising the step of: attaching the stabilizing
element (14) to the atrial side of each leaflet base (8; 10),
said stabilizing element (14) serving as a support for said
leaflets (4, 6).

8. (amended) A method according to ~~one of claims~~
~~2-7~~claim 2, comprising the steps of: encasing said steerable
applicator (32) (catheter) in an inserting device (guidance
sheath) for penetrating the human skin and achieving a venous
access port; extending the steerable applicator (32) from a
maneuvering device at a proximal end outside said access port,
through the femoral vein, the inferior vena cava and the right
atrium to penetrate the intra-atrial septum to the left atrium
and; arranging the steerable applicator (32) (catheter) with
a manipulative distal end (31) in one of said selected
positions (26; 28).

15. (amended) A means according to ~~one of claims~~
~~11-14~~claim 11, wherein the distance (D1, D2) between the
anterior (8) and posterior (10) leaflet bases is adjustable by
means of varying the length of said stabilizing element (14).

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18. (amended) A means according to ~~one of claims~~
~~11-17~~claim 11 , wherein the stabilizing element (14) is
comprised of a rod or wire.

19. (amended) A means according to ~~one of claims~~
~~11-17~~claim 12 , wherein the stabilizing element (14) is
comprised of a number of rods or wires.

20. (amended) A means according to ~~one of claims~~
~~11-17~~claim 13 , wherein the stabilizing element (14) is a
structure comprising a number of rods or wires.

21. (amended) A means according to ~~one of claims~~
~~11-17~~claim 14 , wherein the stabilizing element (14) is
comprised of a strip or band.

22. (amended) A means according to ~~one of~~
~~claims~~claim 11--17, wherein the stabilizing element (14) is
comprised of a number of strips or bands.

23. (amended) A means according to claim 21 ~~or~~ 22,
wherein each strip or band is net-formed.

24. (amended) A means according to ~~one of claims~~
~~20-22~~claim 20 , wherein an intermediate section of each
structure, strip or band is shaped in the form of a ring.

25. (amended) A means according to ~~one of claims~~
~~20-22~~claim 20 , wherein an intermediate section of each
structure, strip or band is shaped in the form of a circular
disc.

26. (amended) A means according to ~~one of claims~~
~~11-25~~claim 11, wherein said steerable applicator (32) (cathe-

ter) is encased in an inserting device (guidance sheath) for penetrating the human skin to achieve a venous access port and extended, from a maneuvering device at a proximal end outside said access port, through the femoral vein, the inferior vena cava and the right atrium to penetrate the intra-atrial septum to the left atrium, the steerable applicator (32) (catheter) being arrangable with a manipulative distal end (31) in one of said selected positions (26; 28).